

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

June 25, 2015

Not guilty plea in attempted Riverhead arson

A Riverhead man pleaded not guilty to attempted arson and a weapons charge at his arraignment this morning Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

On the night of June 14, Monwell Wright allegedly filled an ice tea bottle with gas, ignited a homemade wick and hurled it at his neighbor's house at 24 Sigal Avenue. The bottle bounced off the house and exploded on the ground.

District Attorney Spota said the homeowner at 24 Sigal Avenue had a video surveillance system installed after an incident last month when he found scorch marks on his vinyl siding.

"The footage shows the defendant outside the home at the time the bottle of gas was tossed at the house," DA Spota said. "We are fortunate the house didn't catch fire; there were six people, including a six-month old infant, inside 24 Sigal Avenue when the Molotov cocktail hit the house."

State Supreme Court Justice William Condon ordered Wright held in lieu of \$250,000 cash bail.

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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.